Facilities to Handloom Weavers

*240. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of facilities for raw material, finance and marketing provided by the Union Government to improve the lot of weavers in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka during the period from March to October, 1991;

(b) whether any assessment has been made by the Government to improve the overall economic conditions of the wevers during the above period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Central Government is implementing a number of Schemes for upliftment of handloom weavers through the State Governments including Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. In order to ensure adequate and regular supplies of yarn to weavers at reasonable prices, Government has the arrangements of standing nature, such as (i) the Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme which requires every producer of yarn to pack at least 50% of the total yarn packed for civil consumption in hank form; (ii) loan assistance to National Cooperative Development Corporation for setting up of new weavers cooperative spinning mills and expansion of existing mills for encouraging captive production in the handloom sector; (iii) through the operations of National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC); (iv) constitution of State Level Yarn Price Fixation Committees to regulate selling prices of hank yarn produced by cooperative and state sector mills for supplies to the handloom weavers; and (v) complete exemption of excise duty on plain reeled hank yarn and levy of concessional rate of excise duty on double cross reel hank yarn in order to make available yarn to weavers at reasonable prices.

Under the NABARD re-financing scheme, short-term credit limits to State cooperative Banks for financing the production and marketing activities of primary weavers cooperative societies and procurement and marketing of cloth by Apex and Regional Weavers Cooperative Societies are provided at concessional rate of interest.

The arrangements for providing market support to handloom products include, (i) A comprehensive Market Development Assistance Scheme underwhich assistance to the extent of 80% of the sales turnover is released to Apex Societies and Corporatidns and also to National Handloom Organisations; (ii) Special rebate on sales of handloom goods at the National Handloom Expos; (iii) Setting up of Marketing complexes by NHDC ; (iv) National Design Collection Programmes for the promotion of unique weavers and designs through Exhibition-cum-sales; and (v) Preferential purchase of handloom goods for use in Government Departments/Agencies.

In addition to these arrangements Government has also taken the following measures with a view to improve the socio - economic conditions of weavers in the country:-

(i) Financial assistance for modernisatibn of looms;

(ii) Scheme of decentralised training to train weavers on improved technology;

(iii) Scheme of training a cadre of 'Bunkar Sevaks' for assisting weavers in transfer of improved technology;

(iv) Protection to handlooms by reserving certain varieties of cloth for their exclusive production in the handloom sector;

(v) Design support and provision of technological inputs through a number of Weavers' Service Centres in the country;

(iv) Special fiscal concessions to the handloom sector to remove the cost handicap of handlooms *vis–a-vis* the powerlooms;

(vii) Thrift Fund Scheme;

(viii) Workshed–cum-Housing Scheme; and

(ix) The Janata Cloth Scheme under which it is ensured that reasonable level of wages is paid to handloom weavers.

Government has also announced a new Scheme entitled "Margin Money for Destitute Weavers" to be implemented during the current financial year for the benefit of handloom weavers living below poverty line.

During the period from 1st March to 31st October '91 the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka were released a total of Rs. 20.10 crore, Rs.12.37 crore and Rs. 5.61 crore respectively under the various central schemes.

(b) and (c). During the period from March to October '91, the marketability of handloom products has been affected due to high prices of hank yarn. Government is constantly reving the price situation and at required occassions in racted with the spinning industry to pursuade time reduce the yarn prices.

Filling up of Posts of Chairmen in Nationalised Banks

*241. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the posts of Chairmen of several nationalised banks are lying vacant for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof bank–wise and since when these posts are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons for delay in filling up the vacancies; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). At present the position of Chairman and Managing Director is vacant in 6 nationalised banks. The details of these vacancies are given below:–

Name of the Bank	*Date from which vacant*
Corporation Bank	10.7.1990
Vijaya Bank	22.9.1990
Bank of India	30.8.1991
Central Bank of India	31.8.1991
Canara Bank	1.9.1991
Syndicate Bank	5.11.1991

The process of selection and appointment of Chief executives on the boards of nationalised banks is a time consuming exercise as it involves evaluation of the persons eligible for such appointment and